



K4GSO.us

The Oracle

Newsletter of the Silver Springs Radio Club

Oldest Radio Club in Marion County, FL



February 2020

President's Message

Elbert Wilkinson, KQ3K

MEMBERSHIP:

This year, just like last year, we made Membership Growth Job #1. Our goal for 2020 is to increase membership to 100. Once again, we are still on a roll with four new members joining at the January meeting. Please welcome our newest members: Jim Fitzreiter, K3QHO, Extra; John Lindmeir, K3ZV, Extra; Alice McCarthy, W0ALM, Technician; Steve McCarthy, W0SJM, Technician. We look forward to each becoming active in club activities, so once again, welcome! To top it off, we already have another application teed-up for the February 4th board meeting.

As discussed at the January General Meeting, we will be asking older members to adopt a new member, especially those recently licensed. This is important for their success in the hobby and the club. The information and technical details can be overwhelming, so help is on the way. New members and other amateurs – please don't be shy about asking for help. We may not know what you are struggling with unless you tell us.

WINTER FIELD DAY 2020:

This year, for a change in scenery and to use the site, we set-up and operated from Perry Field. Unlike the bad weather last year, we were blessed with clear skies, cool weather, low humidity and NO RAIN! It was almost picture perfect Florida "Chamber of Commerce" weather. This year's operators were Carl, KC5CMX, on Phone, Ed, WB2UKX, on CW and me on Digital. Tom, W4DAX, spelled Carl on phone for a while on Saturday and made some good contacts.

Carl's world famous "chuckapult" mobile antenna was set-up on Friday afternoon. If you are wondering what kind of antenna that is, close your eyes and imagine a medieval catapult – yes, one of those – that's what it looks like. You will not find one of these in the antenna section of the ARRL Handbook! Saturday morning, the other antennas were set-up. Ed used a homebrew NVIS antenna that Steve Nash, KK4ZEI, built and set-up for its debut in radio service. I used a simple hybrid BuddyStick-Wolf River coil vertical antenna. All stations

Next Club Meeting

February 18

(SSRC Meets the third Tuesday of each month)
Green Clover Hall
319 SE 26th Terrace
Ocala, FL

6:00 Elmering & Socializing
7:00 Business Meeting

SSRC Board of Directors meets the first Tuesday of each month, 7:00 PM at the same location. All are welcome.

Upcoming Events/Meetings

[Click here to sign up.](#)

[ARES Update](#) - Ron Viola, KS4SW

The next meeting is Feb. 15, 10:00 AM at the EOC.

SSRC Ham School – Saturday, February 29
(Check the website for the topic)

[Education/Testing](#) – Jim Burgess, KN4MIV
March 10, 7:00 PM Green Clover Hall

Silver Springs Radio Club Net

K4GSO

Mondays at 7:30 PM
146.610, PL 123

President's Message (Continued)

were powered by a Honda EU 2000 generator. Carl set-up a MESH network for logging that worked very well in keeping track of our contacts and scores. We were also able to figure out how to link FLDIGI to the N3FJP logging software, so another successful learning event for us. The networking and logging will come in handy in June for Field Day.

So, how did we do? Our scores were better than last year with 109 QSOs compared to 75 last year and no CW. Total operating time was about 10 hours over both days. Our reported score was 2,436 and with all multipliers added in, our score was 5,436. Per <https://contestonlinescore.com/scoreboard/>, we were #8 out of 21 clubs and #1 in our category of Multi-Multi Low Power. OK, confession time...there were only two in our MM/LP category, but what the heck...we were still #1! There were other club scores considerably higher than us, but that's Ok. What made the whole effort worthwhile, in addition to the fun, fellowship and teamwork with our operators, was the number of visitors who came out on Saturday and Sunday to see our activities and tour Perry Field. Carl counted 16 but only 12 signed the visitor log.

Thank you all for visiting and spending time with us and thanks again to Carl, Ed, Tom and Steve for all your efforts to make this year's Winter Field Day successful!

HAM SCHOOL & NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION:

As we discussed in the January meeting, we are changing the format of our previous monthly mentoring sessions to a more formal structure – Ham School. We also requested members provide us with topics of interest. So far, we have requests for simple antenna building, HF digital modes, basic Linux programming for the Raspberry Pi, VHF digital modes and operations and organizing POTA activations. These were just from two members. There is a need for all of us to learn and teach new things to others. This month's Ham School will be on Saturday the 29th. Topic(s) will be set in the next week or so and posted on the Website. Stay tuned and sign-up.

Your club officers and directors will be leading Ham School, however, other club members will be asked to participate as subject matter experts. Please say "yes" when you are asked. The sessions will be open to all new amateurs regardless of club affiliation with the goal of growing our club.

Special Note: There is one caveat, however: as a courtesy to those who will teach, attendees will need to sign-up on the website so that we can plan accordingly. If no one signs up by the Thursday before the session, then that session will be postponed to the following month.

LICENSING CLASS:

Over the last several months, the club has been discussing conducting a Technician Licensing Class. The board has asked Roger Staley, K4ZFW, and Rich Erlichman, ND4G, to plan, coordinate and conduct this class. Rich and Roger will be setting the class dates and times, so stay tuned for details to follow. VE Testing will take place at the conclusion of the Licensing Class. If you are interested in assisting them, please contact Rich, Roger or me.

MARION COUNTY DAY:

Mark your calendars for March 28th for Marion County Day to be held at the Marion County Governmental complex. SSRC participated last year in the 175th Marion County Anniversary Celebration and had a great showing with a number of visitors. The county wants to host another community event and our application has been submitted. More details should be provided by the county around the end of the month. We will need members to help set-up, man the displays and demonstrate radio operations. More details will follow at the next General Meeting.

PARKS-ON-THE-AIR ACTIVATIONS:

Another activity we will be doing for public exposure are Parks-On-The-Air activations. During the break at the January meeting, I was pleasantly surprised to learn we have members who have already been "activators." They have been "drafted" to be our POTA leaders. We have two parks close by that can accommodate us – Silver Springs State Park and Indian Lake State Park five miles to the north. These can be fun outings and test our ability to operate in a grid-down or emergency situation without commercial or generator power. It is also good training for field day and general radio operations!

EVERYBODY HAS A JOB:

SSRC wants you to be involved and there are a number of committees and activities where we can use and you can practice your skills:

Programs	Perry Field
Membership	Contesting
Education & Training	V. E. Team
Activities	Website
Perry Field	Newsletter

President's Message (Continued)

We have started the process of assigning many of you to the committees based upon your previous involvement and interests. You can be on more than one, which would be great, so if one or more is of

interest, email me. Take an interest and get involved. Committee assignments will be posted after the February Board and General meetings.

That's all for now, folks. Ham On and stay Radio-Active!

Silver Springs Radio Club Presents Donation to Troop 439

Jim Burgess, KN4MIV

The First Christian Church Boy Scout Troop 439 had reserved the facilities for our hamfest weekend and threw us a lifeline by moving their fundraising event to December 13 and 14 to accommodate our hamfest on the 7th.

We got very lucky...seriously...very lucky



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

Below: Chris Malloy, Scout Master accepts the \$200 donation from SSRC President, Elbert Wilkinson, KQ3K



SSRC President, Elbert, KQ3K



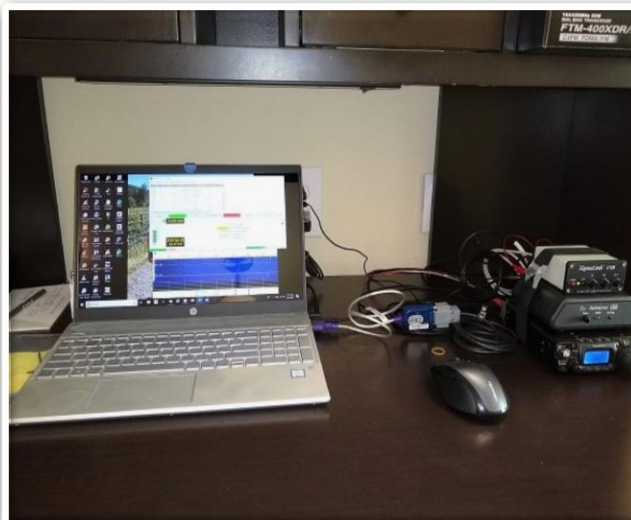
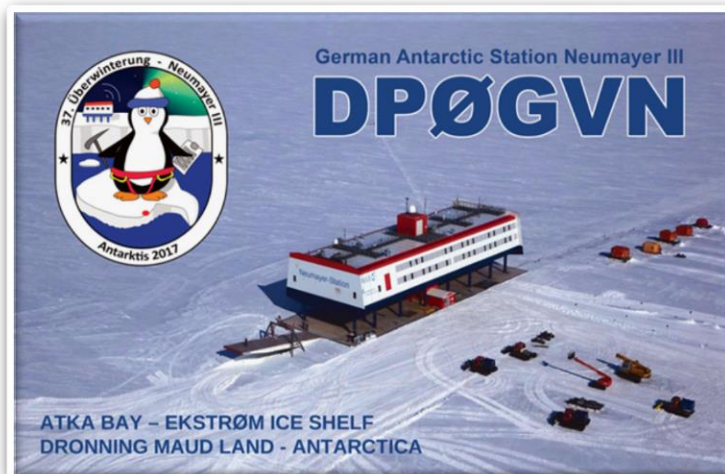
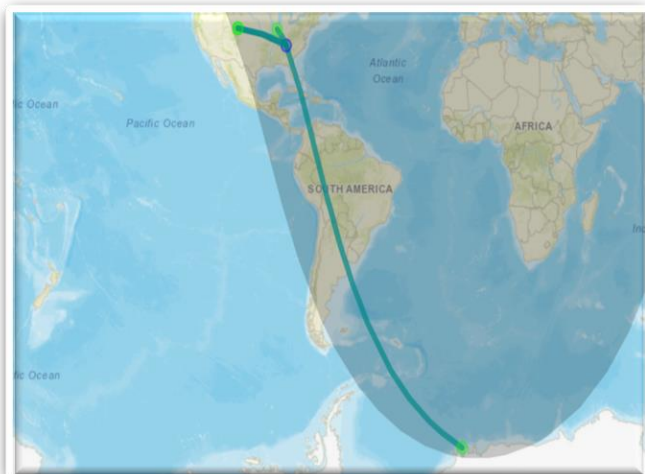
Collage Thanks to Ivory Williams, W6IVY



KG4CCB WSPR Signal Reaches Antarctica

Ivory Williams, W6IVY

Darrell, KG4CCB, is a new club member first licensed in 1968 for 10 years. He then re-licensed in 1999 and after retiring in May 2018 is now full speed ahead. Look for a club presentation in the near future.



Darrell's temporary location.

Greetings!

I see you received my WSPR signal; you are my most distant contact. My current set-up is a temporary location in a hotel (Knoxville, TN) using an FT-818 transceiver operating at less than 5 watts into an MFJ Loop tuner with a 13-ft perimeter square loop sitting inside the hotel window. Very impressive facility you have there!

Stay Warm!

Darrell / KG4CCB

KG4CCB (continued)

**Home Station**

I have finished up my 14AVQ WSPR antenna project. Works good, actually better than the CP-5HS which I installed at the opposite end of the house at 16-ft above grade. I am actually a little disappointed in the CP-5HS. It tunes very nicely on all bands, except 6m. But the tuning is very narrow. With it tuned at 14.225 for example, I need my MFJ tuner to get it to a good SWR for WSPR frequencies, ~14.095.

News You Can Use

[The newsletter](#) will be posted to the K4GSO website. Send information and pictures to [Marty](#)

[SSRC Logo Shirts & Caps](#)

[Green Clover Key Card](#)

[Perry Field Access](#)

[Membership Application](#)

[Buy/Sell/Trade](#)

[QST NFL](#) – NFL Section Newsletter

[Silver Springs Radio Club Website](#)

[NFL Section Website](#)

[WA7BNM Contest Calendar](#)

[NG3K DX](#)

[2019 Club Minutes and Financial Reports](#)

2020 SSRC Officers

[President - Elbert Wilkinson, KQ3K](#)

[V President – Jim Burgess, KN4MIV](#)

[Secretary – Ivory Williams, W6IVY](#)

[Treasurer – Bill Gillespie, KW5BG](#)

Directors

[Ron Viola, KS4SW](#)

[Mike Condon, W9MNC](#)

[Wayne Brown, N4FP](#)

Committee Chairs:

[Membership – Carl Berry, KC5CMX](#)

[Trustee K4GSO – Wayne Brown, N4FP](#)

[Newsletter – Marty Brown, N4GL](#)